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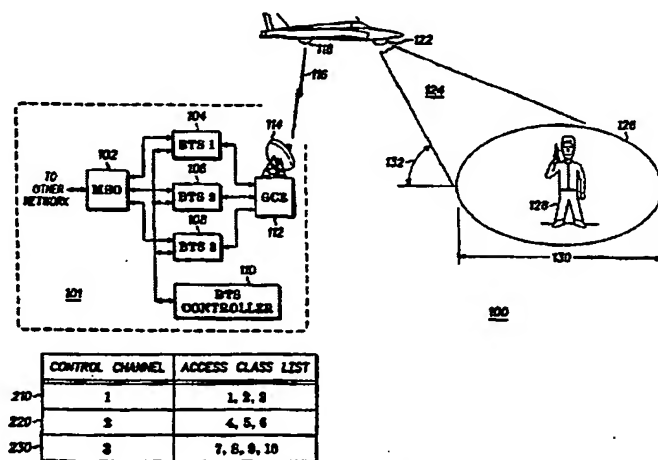
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(54) Title: COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM LOAD CONTROL METHODS AND APPARATUS



MSO ... MOBILE SWITCHING OFFICE
BTS ... BASE TRANSMITTER STATION
GCS ... GROUND COUNCIL STATION

(57) **Abstract:** A communications system (100) includes an aircraft (120) that acts as a repeater between ground equipment (101) and communication units (128) on the ground. The ground equipment (101) includes multiple base transceiver stations (104, 106, 108) that provide traffic channels, control channels, and access channels. The channels are all in a single beam (124) projected from aircraft (120). Relative loading on access channels is influenced by access class lists (200, Fig. 2) assigned to control channels. Access classes can be transferred from one list to another, or they can be removed from a list. Relative loading of traffic channels on the base transceiver stations is influenced by assigning different time offsets to each base transceiver station so that calls can be transferred from one base transceiver station to another.

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